

BILL # HB 2275

TITLE: school textbooks; alternative format

SPONSOR: Gray

STATUS: As Amended by House Education

REQUESTED BY: House

PREPARED BY: Steve Schimpp

	FISCAL YEAR		
	2004	2005	2006
EXPENDITURES			
General Fund	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

HB 2275 would require textbook publishers to provide the Department of Education (ADE) with an electronic copy of any textbook that they sell to a school district or charter school in the state, so that an alternative format version of the book can be developed for use by special education pupils. The bill would require school districts and charter schools to notify publishers of this requirement when soliciting bids for textbooks. It would exempt "legacy materials" from the electronic copy requirement, since those materials require release from a source other than a textbook publisher. The bill would require the State Board of Education to adopt Braille literacy rules by July 1, 2003 and rules for other alternative format textbooks by July 1, 2004.

Estimated Impact

We estimate that the bill would not have a state fiscal impact. The Arizona Department of Education likewise estimates that the bill would not have a fiscal impact.

Analysis

HB 2275 would require ADE to mandate that publishers provide it with an electronic copy of any textbook sold to a school district or charter school. It also would require the State Board of Education to adopt rules for alternative format textbooks. Neither of these duties would require ADE to hire additional staff or increase its operating budget, so they would not have a state fiscal impact. Likewise, the bill would not affect Basic State Aid (BSA) costs because it would not change the BSA funding formula. (School districts and charter schools typically purchase textbooks with Capital Outlay Revenue Limit (CORL) or Soft Capital funds, both of which are provided through the Basic State Aid formula.)

Local Government Impact

The bill would require school districts or charter schools that are soliciting bids for textbooks to notify publishers of the requirement that they provide ADE with electronic copies of those textbooks. This requirement would not affect bidding costs of school districts and charter schools and therefore would not result in a local fiscal impact.

We anticipate that private sector publishing costs for textbooks would remain virtually unchanged under the bill, since it would only require publishers to provide ADE with an electronic copy of their textbooks and publishers already store archival copies of their textbooks in electronic form. If textbook prices did increase or decrease under the bill, the impact of those price changes would be incurred locally, since state funding for textbook purchases would remain unchanged under the bill.